

REMARKS

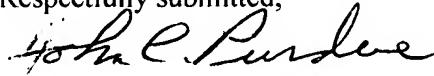
This communication is in response to an Official action dated July 31, 2003. A request for a three month extension of time for response is being filed herewith.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the preserving protective layer on top of the silane coupling agent is a polymethyl methacrylate, a Bis GMA, an epoxy resin or a phenolic resin. Since these are the materials recited in original claims 2-5, which were held to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, amended claim 1 is believed to be allowable. Similarly, the amendments to claim 1 are believed to make claims 2-6 allowable.

The Official action objected to claims 7-12 as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim can not depend on another multiple dependent claim, but did not further treat these claims on the merits. The foregoing amendments cancel claims 8 and 9, and amend claims 7 and 10-12 to eliminate multiple dependency. Accordingly, the objection is believed to have been avoided, and an action on the merits of claims 7 and 10-12 is thought to be in order. Since these claims are all dependent upon claim 1 (either directly or remotely), and since claim 1, as is discussed above, is believed to be allowable, it is believed that claims 7 and 10-12 should be allowed.

Accordingly, it is believed that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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